UCONN | COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

COMMITTEE ON CURRICULA AND COURSES

Proposal to Add a New Undergraduate Course

Last revised: September xx, 2013

1. Date: 11-5-2013
2. Department requesting this course: Pols
3. Semester and year in which course will be first offered: Fall 2014

Final Catalog Listing

Assemble this after you have completed the components below. This listing should not contain any information that is not listed below!

Pols 3082. Critical Race Theory
Three credits. Prerequisite: Open to Juniors or Higher. Recommended preparation: Pols 1002.
Contemporary race scholarship in political theory and related disciplines on how racial identification connects to legal decisions, the construction of publics, and political action. Additional topics include interactions between states and social movements on racial questions, the intersections of race, class, gender, and membership, and the problems with both post-racialism and identity politics.

Items Included in Catalog Listing

Obligatory Items

1. Standard abbreviation for Department, Program or Subject Area: Pols
2. Course Number: 3082
3. Course Title: Critical race theory
4. Number of Credits: 3
5. Course Description (second paragraph of catalog entry): Contemporary race scholarship in political theory and related disciplines on how racial identification connects to legal decisions, the construction of publics, and political action. Additional topics include interactions between states and social movements on racial questions, the intersections of race, class, gender, and membership, and the problems with both post-racialism and identity politics.

Optional Items

6. Pattern of instruction, if not standard: Lecture and discussion
7. Prerequisites, if applicable:
    a. Consent of Instructor, if applicable:
    b. Open to sophomores/juniors or higher: Juniors and higher
8. Recommended Preparation, if applicable: Pols 1002
9. Exclusions, if applicable: n/a

10. Repetition for credit, if applicable: n/a
11. Skill codes "W", "Q" or "C": n/a
12. University General Education Content Area, if any: n/a
    If Content Area 1, CLAS areas A-E:
13. S/U grading: n/a

Justification

1. Reasons for adding this course: To expand the available offerings for our majors.
2. Academic merit: The primary objective of the course is to map out the political and theoretical contours of contemporary race studies. We will compare how critical theorists from various intellectual traditions are posing and responding to a common set of questions about the politically specific functions of race. By the end of the course, students will be able to assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of individual critical race theorists as well as the legal, social, and political theoretical sources of their ideas.
3. Overlapping courses: Pols offers several classes on racial issues, but most focus on either a single race or focus on questions of public policy and electoral behavior, not questions of intellectual history or political philosophy. This course has some overlapping interests with Anth 3152 and Soci 1501/3501. We have shared the course material with them and amended the course descriptions to emphasize the political theory emphasis of the course in light of their concerns about overlap.
4. Number of students expected: 44
5. Number and size of sections: 1 per year
6. Effects on other departments: none (have emailed Sociology and Anthropology)
7. Effects on regional campuses: none
8. Staffing: Fred Lee
9. Dates approved by
   Department Curriculum Committee: 11-1-2013
   Department Faculty: 12-10-2013
10. Name, Phone Number, and e-mail address of principal contact person:

Matt Singer
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6-2615

Syllabus

A syllabus for the new course must be attached to your submission email.